

## Public Affairs wins 'best message' award



*Photo by Margaret Vandeveenter*

The staff of MARAD's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs and the NS Savannah's program manager, Erhard Koehler, pose with the OST-PA award for creating and delivering the "best message" to the public and the media about the nuclear ship's decommissioning project. The award-winning team includes (right to left) Lisa Bardo-Barnes, Elvira May, Ella Thomas, Perquita Scott, Shannon Russell, Koehler, Susan Clark (with award), Thom Robinson and Carla Fuller.

## Another outstanding MARAD employee



*Photo by Thom Robinson*

At MARAD Headquarters, Daron Threet displays the bronze superior achievement award, which he recently received for extraordinary performance of regulatory work, exemplified through leadership in the administration of the Deepwater Licensing Program. Threet was also a runner-up for the prestigious Lawrence R. Schneider Award for outstanding legal service by an attorney with less than 10 years of federal service.

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service and outstanding dedicated administrative support during the hurricane relief efforts. **Mary Sandolph**, a ship-operations administrative-support clerk in New Orleans, was presented with her award for exceptional administrative support while serving as the link between MARAD staff and the staff at the Port of New Orleans. **Sarah Washington**, a staff technical assistant at MARAD Headquarters, was recognized for providing exemplary service as a support professional in support of the American Fisheries Act compliance program and other duties.

The DOT Hurricane Evacuation Team was presented with the Secretary's Team Award for exceptional service in responding to the White House recommendation that

DOT establish a Federal Evacuation Capability Plan in time for the 2006 hurricane season. Representing MARAD on the team were **Owen Doherty, Andy Jordan, Susan Schaefer, Kevin Tokarski, and Richard Walker**.

The Secretary's Award for Partnering for Excellence was presented to DOT's Hazardous Materials Hurricane Response Team and to DOT's Louisiana Recovery Assistance Team. The hazmat/hurricane response team was recognized for providing unprecedented regulatory relief to the four states that were severely affected by Hurricane Katrina; and the Louisiana recovery team was cited for playing an extraordinary role in addressing that state's critical and unprecedented community planning and transportation recovery needs in the wake of Hurricanes Rita and

Katrina. MARAD's representative on the recovery team was **Jim Murphy**, the ports and environmental officer with the Central Region in New Orleans.

The Secretary's Volunteer Service Award was presented to the DOT Pro Bono Services Committee for dedication and innovation in enlisting, organizing and supporting DOT volunteers to provide free legal services to low-income residents. MARAD's member of the DOT PBSC was **Len Sutter**.

Secretary Peters closed her remarks with a tribute to all DOT employees and said, "I am especially honored to be here this year because it gives me a chance to tell you personally how pleased I am to be working on this incredible team ... [with] the dedicated men and women who keep America moving. You are the best!"

## WELCOME ABOARD!

Say "Hello" to these new MARAD employees hired during December:

**ASHLEE L. BROWN**, program support clerk, HQ—Dec. 18, 2006

**RICHARD T. EGAN**, professional development/career services head, USMMA—Dec. 11, 2006

**SHERRYL M. GATES**, tactical officer, USMMA—Dec. 11, 2006

**STEPHANIE S. MANOSO**, financial control specialist, SAR—Dec. 10, 2006